

Developing a new Libraries Strategy for Haringey 2024-29

Next steps doc – March 2024

Purpose of a new Libraries Strategy

- We've invested heavily in the physical future of our branch libraries, joined the Libraries Consortium, improved our digital offer and maintained excellent and accessible coverage – we have a great base from which to build
- We face financial challenges along with the whole council and other councils and are having to reduce our opening hours this year – now is the time for a new direction, otherwise the service could wither on the vine
- A new strategy will give us purpose and something positive to work towards
- With a new Culture Strategy underway and new cultural leadership, we have an opportunity to redefine and renew the role of libraries as cultural hubs for our communities
- The Council is developing an approach to service delivery that envisages greater community access to a wider range of services through a network of community hubs – libraries could play a great role in this network as public buildings at the heart of local communities
- Libraries are open, accessible, welcoming spaces for all, and can embody the Council's ethos of the Haringey Deal, where we envisage a new and closer relationship between the Council and Haringey residents

Next steps following Budget Council decision

- We have taken DCMS advice and will **follow good practice** in making changes to library services
- First requirement is to carry out a **Needs Assessment**, including gathering representative views of non-library-users as well as users and other stakeholders
- With Friends groups and other stakeholders we will **co-produce proposals for each library**, based on needs assessments and including opportunities to consider income generation and other ideas
- There will be **formal public consultation** following the GLA elections on proposals to change library opening hours and on longer term strategy and ideas
- An **Equality Impact Assessment** will be carried out for each library, using the needs assessment and proposed mitigations
- Following a decision on the opening hours we will then need to **consult Trade Unions and staff** on what it means for their roles and working patterns
- Once that process is concluded and revised arrangements are in place we will **finalise the strategy** for the longer term

High-level Timeline during 2024

